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Letter No. 2297

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

January 29, 1987

CHINA ELIGIBLE  
FOR ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM

Under Sec'y of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz announced an opportunity for sales of U.S. wheat to the Peoples Republic of China under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program. Sales of wheat will be made at competitive world prices. This will give U.S. exporters the opportunity to sell 1 million metric tons of wheat. The export sales will be subsidized with commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. This will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Chinese market.

THE ENHANCEMENT  
PROGRAM

As of January 26, there were 61 announced initiatives of countries eligible to purchase agricultural products under the Export Enhancement Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The export sales are subsidized with commodities from the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. This will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the foreign markets. Some of the countries in the 61 initiatives are China, Poland, Romania, Dominican Republic, Zanzibar, Jordan, Tunisia, West Africa, Venezuela, Egypt, India, Jordan, Israel, Zaire, Nigeria, plus others. The offered products include wheat, barley, sorghum, frozen poultry, table eggs, dairy cattle, vegetable oil, and rice, for a potential total sales value of \$1 billion, 42 million.

YEMEN & NIGERIA -  
NEW ENHANCEMENT

January 28, Under Sec'y of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz announced an additional opportunity for sales of 100,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat to Yemen and a new opportunity for selling 500,000 metric tons of wheat to Nigeria under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program. Under this program, sales of wheat will be made to buyers in the two countries at competitive world prices.

PRAVDA GIVES  
USSR PRODUCTION  
TOTALS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the 1986 Soviet plan fulfillment report issued in Pravda contains the following grain production data: The total grain production was 210 million 100 thousand tons...wheat, 92 million 300 thousand tons...corn, 12 million 500 thousand tons...rice, 2 million 600 thousand tons. Total grain yields averaged 1.8 tons per hectare (4½ tons per acre), the second highest on record. A record 1.82 tons per hectare was set in 1978 when output totaled 237 million tons.

SALES TO  
SAUDI ARABIA

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 120,000 metric tons of barley for delivery to Saudi Arabia during the 1986/87 marketing year.

WORLD COTTON  
REDUCED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecast of 1986/87 world carryout stocks of cotton have been reduced to reflect smaller than anticipated crops in China and India. World stocks are now estimated at 39 million 600 thousand bales, 3 pct. below the December estimate of 41 million bales. Countries expected to hold the largest 1986/87 carryout stocks are China, the U.S., Brazil, the Soviet and India. The largest reductions in stock levels this season are expected in China and the U.S.

WHO GETS FARM  
PAYMENTS?

Everybody knows that the bulk of government payments go to large farms that "...don't really need them." But that belief is proved wrong by data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which shows that nearly 85 pct. of the 1985 government payments and crop loans went to farms with sales of less than \$500,000. The data also indicate that nearly 60 pct. of total payments went to farms with high debt loads, negative cash flows, or both.

TRADE INFO.  
ON COMPUTER

A computerized service offering information about international agricultural trade is now available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new computerized data base, named "Agtrade," makes available to subscribers a wide variety of international trade information. The information includes speeches, policy statements, feature stories, world agricultural production and trade data, supply and demand estimates, and data on national productivity and debt. For further information, contact Russell Forte, Office of Information, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202-447-5505.

ADVISOR FOR  
FmHA LOAN SALES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture selected a financial advisor to its Farmers Home Administration in the sale of loans from its rural housing portfolio. The advisor is Kidder, Peabody and Co., a New York investment banking firm. The budget reconciliation act passed by Congress in October requires FmHA to sell enough loans from the housing fund to net \$1 billion 700 million toward deficit reduction. This sale will have little or no effect on rural housing borrowers other than perhaps having to send their mortgage payments to a different address.

REA IN ALASKA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Electrification Administration has issued regulations proposing a privatization demonstration program for REA electric and telephone borrowers in Alaska. The regulations will permit REA borrowers in Alaska to prepay the outstanding principal on certain Federal Financing Bank loans. Alaskan borrowers may prepay their REA loans at either the total outstanding balance on the principal or at a discount from each loan's present value. Borrowers seeking to prepay Federal Financing Bank loans are eligible to receive a guarantee by REA of 90 pct. of the total outstanding balance. (Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted by Feb. 21 to Laurence V. Bladen, Room 4064-A, REA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202-382-1265.)



FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

USSR GRAIN SITUATION...Soviet grain buyers returned to the market this past month, boosting purchases to nearly 80 percent of projected imports. USDA analyst Frank Gomme examines factors contributing to the Soviet grain situation and outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (116)

BIOSECURITY FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA...Gene Longwith with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, looks at biosecurity measures poultry producers can take to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza. Marlene Stinson interviews. (117)

FINANCIAL RECORDS AND FARM SURVIVAL...Illinois farmers talks about the importance of maintaining a full range of financial records to provide the basis for making good management decisions concerning their farms. Gary Beaumont interviews. (118)

MASS REARING LAB...John Roberson, USDA lab technician, talks about the importance of the mass rearing research facility in Mississippi designed to raise and study various insects in order to develop better control methods. Vic Powell interviews. (119)

RECORD KEEPING FOR FARM MANAGEMENT...Illinois farmers and extension specialists continue their discussion on the importance of record keeping for adequate farm management and the importance of financial management techniques and tools. Gary Beaumont interviews. (120)

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1548...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) A look ahead. 1987 will be a transition year for many American farmers. There's a new tax bill as well as the changes under the new farm bill. On this edition of Agriculture USA George Holmes talks to USDA economists about what these changes will mean.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1537...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Defying the Colorado potato beetle; \$50,000 payment limitation; New tax legislation.

CONSUMER TIME #1030...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Hogs are leaner these days; Probes to detect disease; A human plant?; Running out of wood; Falling on deaf ears.

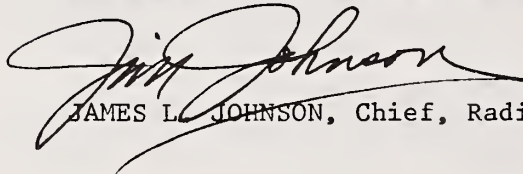
USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Feb. 3, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Feb. 4, Cattle; Mon, Feb. 9, USSR grain situation; World ag supply demand; Crop production. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

ARE YOU  
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USDA RADIO FEATURES. A monthly script service featuring a variety of short items on a variety of subjects. For a sample copy, write Jim Johnson.

OFF MIKE

A man, in his desperation to get off the packed subway car, pushed a lady out ahead of him. Before she could get back on, the doors closed, leaving her stranded well short of her own stop. She had waited nearly 2 hours to get on in the first place. Similar horror stories were rampant throughout government following the days of the "BIG SNOWS!" Our Margaret Desatnik tried three times to get on the Metro subway and wasn't even allowed onto the platform the third time. So, she went home and stayed there. Brenda Curtis-Heiken had the same Metro experience, so she fired up her car and drove into town, taking a couple hours to get there. Gary Crawford couldn't even get out of his development because of unplowed streets. And then when the streets were passable he slipped and fell on icy steps, banged his head and knocked himself unconscious. When he came to he was able to get to the hospital. The X-rays were negative, but the doctor said to stay home and stay quiet for 24 hours just to be sure. That was this morning. We hoping he makes it in tomorrow. No doubt about it: Snowtime is funtime in D.C. ... On other subjects: We've learned that Don Wick (KLGR, Redwood Falls, MN) received the 1986 Minnesota Ag Communicator of the Year award from the Minnesota Farm Bureau. Our congratulations! ... Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Claire, WI) reports his former summer intern Pam Jahnke is now on the WAXX staff full time in sales. Pam received a NAFB Scholarship and is a recent graduate from University of Wisconsin. Bob says Pam will help him in the farm department as time permits ... Doug Thomas (Southern States Net, Baton Rouge, LA) had a nice note in his recent newsletter. He commented that late December is usually a slow time for farm news but not this year...thanks a timely telephone press conferences with Sec'y Richard Lyng and Dep Sec'y Peter Myers...set up by, who else, your USDA radio staff. Thanks for the back pat, Doug.



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